

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /108 W

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R 121720Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8009

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS VIENNA 2006

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN

SUBJ: ALGERIAN OBSERVER AT AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST CONGRESS COMMENTS
ON WEST SAHARA ISSUE

1. SOCIALIST ARBEITER ZEITUNG OF MARCH 12 PUBLISHED EXCERPTS
FROM INTERVIEW MARCH 11 WITH ALGERIAN FLN EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEMBER ABDELKRIM GHREIEB, WHO IS ATTENDING
AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS, VIENNA, MARCH 11-13,
AS ALGERIAN OBSERVER. GHREIEB STATE HE COULD NOT
UNDERSTAND WHY BOUABID (MOROCCAN OBSERVER TO SOCIALIST
CONGRESS) AND ALL PROGRESSIVE MOROCCANS ARE AFRAID OF
OPINION OF SAHARA PEOPLE AND WHY THEY ARE TAKEN IN BY
DOMESTIC ROYALIST PROPAGANDA ON ISSUE. HE SAID
ALGERIA WAS NOT RAISING ANY TERRITORIAL CLAIM NOW NOR
WOULD DO SO IN FUTURE AND CONTINUED: "WE FOUGHT HARD
FOR OUR OWN SELF-DETERMINATION. WE SUPPORT THE JUST
WISHES OF THE SAHARA PEOPLE. (BUT) WE WILL NOT FIGHT
FOR THEM SINCE WE FOUGHT NEITHER IN CHILE NOR IN
VIETNAM NOR AGAINST ISRAEL. WE SHALL ALSO NOT FIGHT
AGAINST MOROCCO BECAUSE OF THE SAHARA. HOWEVER, IF
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HASAN, ENCOURAGED BY U.S. IMPERIALISM, SHOULD DARE

ATTACK OUR BORDERS, WE WOULD OPPOSE HIM. HE SEEMS TO BE WAITING FOR THE DAY."

2. GHREIEB BRUSHED ASIDE DOUBTS ABOUT THE IDEA OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PEOPLE OF 70,000 NOMADS AND SAID "VEN IF THEY WERE ONLY 10,000 THEY WOULD STILL HAVE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THIS IS NOT ONLY ALGERIA'S OPINION BUT ALSO THAT OF UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE VISITED SAHARA."

3. GHREIEB DESCRIBED PRESENT SITUATION OF MOROCCAN ARMY AS "DISGRACEFUL AFTER TWO ATTEMPTED COUPS", AND SAID IT WAS USING SAHARA ISSUE AS OPPORTUNITY "TO SHOW HASAN ITS LOYALTY BY STRONG ACTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF UNUSUAL BRUTALITY". WHICH HE TERMED GENOCIDE.

4. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW BEING FORWARDED
AIR POUCH.BUCHANAN

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NNN

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